

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00209 200907Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /097 W

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R 200700Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3435

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MOPS, ET, IZ, SU, EG

SUBJECT: IRAQI TANKS; EGYPTIAN MIGS

REF: KHARTOUM 0183

1. EMBOFF HAS NOW RETURNED FROM PORT SUDAN WHERE HE HAD CONSIDERABLE OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE ACTIVITIES AT PORT, INCLUDING DURING HELICOPTER TOUR AND ALONG ROAD TO SUAKIN. SAW NO RPT NO EVIDENCE OF ANY TANKS BEING DELIVERED DURING PERIOD SINCE SAT, JAN 15. MOREOVER, NO MENTION BY ANY INDIVIDUALS HE SAW DURING VISIT TO PORT SUDAN OF UNUSUAL DELIVERIES. SINCE THERE ONLY ONE DOC WHERE SUCH HEAVY EQUIPMENT COULD BE UNLOADED, SEEMS UNLIKELY TANKS MENTIONED REFTEL COULD HAVE BEEN DELIVERED WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED, AND WE THINK SOME MENTION OF IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, BASED ON INFO AVAILABLE TO US
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00209 200907Z

NOW, WE SKEPTICAL FRENCH REPORT OF IRAQI TANK DELIVERIES TO PORT SUDAN.

2. WHILE IN PORT SUDAN, EMBOFF SAW SIX SUDAN AIR FORCE MIG-17S AT PORT SUDAN AIRPORT. THIS FIRST HARD INFO WE HAVE HAD OF THIS DEPLOYMENT. IT NOW EASIER DEPLOY SUCH AIRCRAFT AT PORT SUDAN ON REGULAR BASIS SINCE IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

AT AIRPORT DURING 1976. MEANWHILE, WE CONTINUING SEE
SAUDI C-130S AT KHARTOUM AIRPORT. EMBOFF OBSERVED TWO
SAUDI C-130S AFTERNOON TUES, JAN 18. SUDANESE MILITARY
VEHICLES WERE AT PLANE SIDE, SUGGESTING TRANSSHIPMENT OF
EQUIPMENT RATHER THAN TROOPS.

3. ON MARGIN FOREGOING, THERE UNCONFIRMED RUMORS OF
EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE ACTIVITY IN SUDAN. VISITING CANADIAN
MILATT, WHO IS AIR FORCE OFFICER, THINKS EGYPTAIN MIG-23
AIRCRAFT MAY BE IN SUDAN. HE TOLD DCM JAN 19 THAT FORMER
SUDAN ARMY OFFICER TOLD HIM ABOUT PLANE WHOSE DESCRIPTION
AND MANEUVERINGS SUGGESTED MIG-23. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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